

Oursler optimistic about the Club's future

With the annual meeting less than a week away, the Bulletin presented some questions that seem to be most on the minds of the membership to president Will Oursler and asked for his answers. The interview took place on Friday afternoon, April 16. Here is the gist of the Q & A.

Q—On balance, how would you gauge the chances of the Club's survival for the rest of this decade?

Oursler—I have to say to you that if I did not believe the Club would survive another decade, I should not have spent days and weeks and months—as have the other officers—in the administration of the Club's affairs over the past year. I believe we now have the opportunity to become perhaps the strongest impartial voice for freedom of communication and expression of opinion in the world. I am certain that 1980 will find us stronger than ever:

Q—Are we gaining more members than we are losing at the present time?

Oursler—We are, and we will soon even do better.

Q—What is your answer to complaints that, for \$125 a year, OPC offers minimal facilities and benefits?

Oursler—I am not a compulsive joiner but I do belong to several other organizations to which I pay dues. I can say categorically that no other club in the world provides as complete a range of services as we do with the dues structure we have. The Bulletin alone costs between \$30,000 and \$40,000 a year. A single week often sees five Club events. Few other clubs offer the choice of grill or dining room. Though I think some special events are priced too high, I expect that we can bring these within range of journalist income.

Q—How will the move to the new clubhouse affect costs and operations?

Oursler—It is the hope of the officers and myself that we will be able to operate in our new home on the stan-

dard formula for club finances. Dues should supply dollars to run the facility, keep members informed of Club affairs and events and, in general, cover routine services. The operation of the bar-grill, dining room and outside event catering should be self-liquidating, though they are not at present.

And all extraordinary income, such as accrues from the annual dinner, Dateline etc. should go into cash reserve.

Participation paramount

Q—Would you expect greater or less participation in Club affairs and events at the new location?

Oursler—I don't think that's a question of location or facilities. A club's

greatest wealth is its membership if they are prepared to support the club with full participation. The importance of this journalistic fraternity is such that, irrespective of its whereabouts, we'll be the center of free expression and, beyond that, of concern for the role of the press throughout the world.

Q—A month ago, the membership amended the Constitution to permit more members in the active category. What has been done to implement these amendments? Are we actively recruiting?

Oursler—We have begun actively to recruit new members as well as to bring back former members who left because of the non-journalistic activities of past

(Cont'd on page 4)

Corrections chairman blasts 'the system'

By JOSEPH HIXSON

Members who skipped last week's Headliner's Lunch missed an eloquent often passionate, plea for community involvement in the New York City prisons by Correction Board chairman William vanden Heuvel.

Looking and sounding more like a Methodist preacher than a corporation lawyer, vanden Heuvel resisted the temptation to make promises or excoriate corrections guards recently involved in several brutal episodes. Instead, the speaker told about two dozen guests that the city's nine prisons housing about 14,000 inmates (only one third of whom have been convicted of a crime) reflect the indifference of society and the corrosive depersonalization of the culture that encompasses them.

"It was not the violence of the guards nor the inmates that blew the prisons apart," said the unsalaried city official, "but the failure of the system as a whole."

While agreeing that court procedures

need streamlining, guards better orientation and facilities renovation, vanden Heuvel suggested two major steps toward relieving the unproductive cycle of compulsive recidivism (75%) that makes the institutions a revolving door of violence and despair.

"There must," he said, "be 14,000 citizens in a city of eight million will-

(Cont'd on page 2)



William vanden Heuvel reveals a few of his goals to a radio newsman before his recent appearance at the Headliner's Lunch.
Photo by Lisa Hoffman

NEW YORK SCENE

Wed., April 28 — Music Night, Program of a dozen artists from Metropolitan Opera Studio as musical goodbye to the Clubhouse. Farewells, Addios and Arrivederci starts at 8:30. Reservations requested to 875-3865, Miss Moss.

* * *

Fri., April 30 — Annual Meeting, 8:00 P.M.

Corrections chairman blasts 'the system'

(Cont'd from page 1)

ing to give some time as volunteers in trying to establish communications with prisoners and help them in simple ways. The Legal Aid Society has neither the money nor the personnel to provide adequate counsel for those detained pending trial." He asked for the establishment of speakers' programs to present relevant material, for libraries stocked with publications that will be read instead of castoff books, and for listening ears to hear inmates air their problems and frustrations.

Also, said the correction chairman, the system must give the inmates a more active role inside the facilities, watching over potential suicides, translating for the Spanish-speaking prisoners, and so forth. Asked about the work-release programs now being tried with a handful of inmates, vanden Heuvel said he hoped that the days-out, nights-in regimen could be expanded. And he urged the city's education board chairman to keep prison schools running for 12 months

instead of adhering to the academic year.

Introduced by President *Will Oursler*, vanden Heuvel said "I have been humiliated and embarrassed as a lawyer by what I've seen in our correctional facilities. There is no justice there."

He singled out for praise the methadone detoxification program and urged more rehabilitational use of the heroin substitute, noting that, at a conservative estimate, half the inmates of the city's prisons are "narcotics victims."

The \$75 million New York City spends annually for the prison system here constitutes the least productive money spent by the city each year, according to the speaker. And he concluded that it is up to the community to change that picture. *Al Kastner* and *John McAllister*, who had arranged the luncheon, shared the dais with Oursler and the speaker. The meal served was execrable.

Farewell concert set for Wednesday

The Metropolitan Opera Studio, which for almost a decade has given regular concerts at the Club with programs of art songs, opera readings, pops, and instrumental soloists, will help bid farewell to the clubhouse next Wednesday evening.

A dozen artists will contribute their talents to the last Music Night to be held on West 40th St. The "surprise party" was arranged by *Jack Frummer*, chairman, and *John Gutman*, vice-chairman, of the OPC Music Committee. They will host the event. For details, see New York Scene.

Placement

M-346 — P.R. Director for New York City non-profit corp. Should have N.Y. media or p.r. background. Salary \$20,000 up. Please send resumes or other material to Mark J. Henahan, Resnick-Henahan Associates, 1755 Broadway, New York, N.Y. (Chairman Placement Committee).

Paul Scott Mowrer, Pulitzer winner, dies in S.C.

Former OPC member Paul Scott Mowrer, who in 1928 won the first Pulitzer Prize awarded for foreign correspondence, died on April 4 in Beaufort, S.C., at the age of 83.

He joined the Chicago Daily News in 1905 fresh out of high school, and, after attending the University of Michigan from 1906-08 and editing the newspaper there, he became at 22 the Paris correspondent for the Chicago daily.

After covering Europe and its wars for a quarter of a century, Mowrer returned to Chicago in 1934 as chief editorial writer for the paper, becoming its editor the following year.

On retiring from the News in '44, he went back to Paris for the New York Post, and, after the allied victory in Europe, founded a short-lived Paris edition of that paper.

He died returning from a Florida vacation to his home in Chocorua, N.H., and is survived, among others, by his younger brother Edgar Ansel Mowrer and his wife, the former Hadley Richardson.

David L. Williams former, father of the late Wythe Williams, a founder and president of OPC, died of cancer in the V.A. Hospital at Tucson, Ariz., on April 6.

Myrtle McCormick, wife of assistant controller Jack McCormick, died on April 2 in Holy Name Hospital, Teaneck, N.J., after a long illness. Our condolences to Jack.

Classified

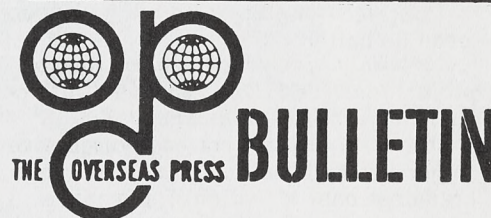
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TRANSLATER, Spanish. Author of *Whisperings and Whimperings* (Whitmanesque poetry) seeks Spanish translator 852-4801 or write Jay Ranz, 51 Clark St., Brooklyn 11201 N.Y.



Bulletin Chairman: Harry Welker, Jr.

Managing Editor: Joseph Hixson

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BULLETIN COMMITTEE: Harry L. Welker, Jr., Chairman; Ruth Biemiller, George Burns, Robert L. Dunne, Ed Edwin, Betty Etter, Lisa Hoffman, Kay Kato, Sam Klein, Ralph Leviton, Ralph H. Major, Jr., Roger B. Marshall, John T. McAllister, Jerry Robinson, Tommy Weber.

Letters

COMMUNICATIONS GAP

While we are casting about madly for ways and means to get the club back on its feet, I'd like to suggest one thing that most certainly would increase our prestige and wouldn't cost a dime — namely, a little more professional journalism.

For instance, in the long letter we received re the special meeting on March 30, the date was mentioned, but not the time. A call to an officer brought the word that it would be at 8:00 o'clock. The *Bulletin* announced it as 6:30. This is a PRESS CLUB?

Betty Etter
New York City

The Bulletin also had called an officer and been told 6:30. Ed.

LOOSE SCREWS

I read the building story in your April 10 issue more with sorrow than anger. Yet if we are to profit by the blunders of the last ten years, perhaps this is the time to take stock of ourselves:

I was a 39th Street member who donated \$500, to help buy the next-door building, only to find my money diverted without my knowledge or consent toward the white elephant on Bryant Park. In the ensuing decade, the Club has gone steadily downhill. Our eviction May 1 writes a sad ending to this unfortunate chapter in the Club's history, made even more graphic in contrast to what we were only ten short years before.

Yet if we can learn from this sorry record of ignorance and folly, it is not too late to start again. When we pick ourselves up from the sidewalk (as I'm sure we can), let's make a club; no more grandiose plans, no more world press centers, no "operators" in high office. And a vote for every member, to blow the whistle on any officer who gets out of line. Never have so many been screwed so hard by so few; if we can resolve to share the decisions as well as their consequences, perhaps our lesson will have been worthwhile.

At least, I'm willing to try,

John Guenther
New York City

OPC hosts jr. journalists

Seventy high school editors were guests of OPC on Friday, March 12, brought to New York City from outlying towns by the Columbia Scholastic Press Association.

Robert Kimmel of NBC, John Noble

ALL ABOUT THE BULLETIN

A little over a year ago Will Oursler, who is now our president, made a campaign promise. Part of it said: "Our Bulletin will be free to report all the facts... This publication is responsible, through the Board, to the membership. No individual officer — including the Club president — will tell its editors what they may or may not print."

Will Oursler kept that promise. It is true that from time to time some officers have approached me with suggestions on ways to handle specific stories — such suggestions, I hasten to add, — all being motivated by a desire to help the Club or present it in its most favorable light. Unhappily, good intentions sometimes come in conflict with good journalism.

When that happened during the past year, journalism came first; good intentions second.

So this is to say that the Bulletin has been produced by the Committee, managing editors Sibby Christensen and Joseph Hixson and myself. No one else.

We have above all attempted to restore believability to the Bulletin. We have attempted to reflect the vitality of a Club peopled by strong-minded men and women who invariably will find things to disagree about. We have even — heaven save the mark — attempted to inject a note of levity occasionally.

One thing more: the Bulletin has faithfully and truly reported important actions taken by the Board at each meeting as well as financial reports as they became available.

In the end the decisions, good or bad, were mine, I accept all responsibility for them.

Harry Welker
Chairman, Bulletin Committee

Wilford of the Times, and Ralph Schulz of Chemical Week told the young journalists about their respective branches of the profession. Madeline Ross then ex-

plained the role of OPC, its history and functions. Anita Diamant Berke moderated the session and the lively Q & A period that followed.

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PEOPLE & PLACES

By BETTY ETTER

ON THE GO: Irene Corbally Kuhn off on a long trek to the Far East, with assignments in Tokyo, Taipei, Hong Kong and Hawaii. En route, she stopped over in Los Angeles to consult with the editor of Architectural Digest on deluxe hotels and restaurants in the Orient and Hawaii offering possibilities for the magazine. Her piece on the Bristol Hotel in Paris made the Digest's May-June issue, the first time a commercial building has been featured. . . . Publishing consultant **Joseph Marks** to Israel for the Jerusalem Book Fair; then on to London to visit clients. . . . **Lin Root** to Washington for AEC interviews. . . . Photographer **Tony Linck**, just back from Israel, now heading for Venezuela. In Israel he did photography for Israel Aircraft Industries on two new business planes being introduced at the Paris Air Show. In Venezuela, it's up the Orinoco River to photograph a mining operation. . . . **Edward A. Walsh**, journalism professor emeritus at Fordham's Department of Communications, back from New Orleans, where he was a consultant to Loyola U. officials on their journalism-communications programs. . . . **Charles E. Brown**, vice president International Executive Service Corps ("The Paunch Corps") back from three weeks in Cali, Columbia, where he kibitzed filming of IESC project for U.S.I.A. Film is the story of William Schaum, former president of Punta Alegre Sugar Co., who at 72 came out of retirement in Sarasota to help a sugar company in Cali find more efficient ways to move cane from field to mill. It's due for worldwide distribution in the fall. . . . **Jim Beiser**, non-ferrous and New York editor of Iron Age, just back from Ireland junket, presented several distinguished members at the bar with outlines of his forthcoming guide to Gaelic, **Coisir faoi choinne paisti**. Passing through Galway, Jim encountered **Arky Gonzalez**, resting from recent free-lance labors.

ARTICLES: Charles Raddock in the Passover issue of the Jewish Echo, new Anglo-Jewish tabloid, with a piece on the controversial Jewish Defense League.

BOOKS: Richard W. Bruner, free-lance writer and producer of films and film-strips, has just signed a contract with David McKay to write a young people's bio of the late Whitney Young. Another young people's book by Bruner, "Black Politicians," being brought out by McKay in May. . . . The Stephen Greene Press to publish **Dick Hyman's** 13th book, "Cockeyed Americana" next winter.

RADIO & TV: Bob Trout coming out of semi-retirement in Spain to do a syndicated TV series which will mix celebrity interviews with Gallup polls on what people really think and talk about.

HONORS: Art Milton's Levittown Tribune captured five awards for editorial excellence in the annual NY Press Association awards. . . . "Survival on the Prairie," written and produced by **Craig Fisher** for NBC, has been collecting awards as if they were going out of style: Writers Guild Award as Best Written Documentary - Current Affairs; the National Press Photographers Association - Pictures of the Year and Team Photography Award, and most recently, a special award from the Western Heritage Center for "outstanding contribution to Western Environmental heritage."

SPEAKERS: Jean Colbert, WTIC, Hartford, Conn., a speaker at a recent Sixth Annual Prayer Breakfast.

SICK BAY: Ray Blair in Greenwich, Conn. hospital recovering from a fractured ankle suffered when he slipped on the ice at JFK airport.

EXHIBIT: Larry Goldsmith, now a full-time artist, having a one-man show at Caravan House, 132 East 65th Street, NYC May 3-29. It will feature recent Maine landscapes.

NEW POSTS: The byline of Matt Bassity, now working part-time for the AP Radio News, has begun to appear on the AP ticker in the OPC lobby. Meanwhile, to keep up with poker, bridge and alimony payments, he is representing Bill Lear, who, after inventing the Lear Jet, the first car radio, the first automatic jet pilot, the 8-track stereo cartridge, and other such things, is now working on a vapor turbine engine to lick air pollution.

Dateline theme announced

Dateline 1971, produced by Newsweek, is starting to press this week with the theme "The Seventies: What's Ahead?"

It carries pieces by headliners such as Herman Kahn, Ralph Nader, James M. Roche, and Russell E. Train, appraisals by journalists in print and electronics, here and abroad, veteran and youthful.

Dateline will not appear at the Awards Dinner this year but will be mailed in May. Publication was delayed with the approval of the Governors to permit inclusion of pertinent material about the Club's future.

Oursler optimistic

(Cont'd from page 1)

years. Our emphasis now is concentrated on active representatives of the media while recognizing changes in that scene.

Q - When do you now predict the Club will move?

Oursler - We are hoping to stay as close to the May 1 deadline as we can, but I should guess that May 15 is a good, feasible date.

Q - Has the idea of twinning OPC with a New York press club been dropped?

Oursler - Yes, but I don't want to exclude that concept completely because we are all part of the mainstream of American journalism. We are, after all, the only press club in New York, headquarters for U.S. news media.

Q - The Overseas Press Bulletin used to be a weekly with advertising. It is now a semi-weekly with virtually no advertising.

Do we need to supplement the Bulletin Committee with an advertising group or perhaps a commissioned ad representative?

Oursler - Yes.

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